

**Statement of the Honorable Ted Poe
Hearing before the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats,
Committee on International Relations
“Germany After the Election: Implications for Germany, Europe and
U.S.-German Relations”
November 9, 2005**

Leading up to the September 18th elections in Germany, many of us hoped that Christian Democrat candidate Angela Merkel would decisively win and be a breath of fresh air to the economic, social, and foreign policies of the Schroeder-led cabinet. Unfortunately, the elections did not produce a clear winner. Mrs. Merkel is from former communist, East Germany which should give anyone a healthy respect for the freedoms, market economics and Western values that is much needed in today's Germany. She has been compared to Margaret Thatcher in that her platform would rebuild relations with the United States (taking the focus off of France), introduce a flat tax, and open up the German economy. I am interested in hearing your opinion on whether a compromise can be worked out between Merkel and Schroeder—especially since they come from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.